



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

June 26, 2003

S. 878

An act to authorized an additional permanent judgeship in the district of Idaho, and for other purposes

As passed by the Senate on May 22, 2003

S. 878 would authorize 14 additional district court judges and 36 additional bankruptcy judges. Based on information from the Administrative Office of the United States Courts (AOUSC), CBO estimates that implementing the act would cost \$26 million in 2004 and \$132 over the 2004-2008 period for court staff salaries and benefits, supplies, equipment, security, and rental or construction of office space to support the 50 additional judges. We also estimate that enacting the legislation would increase direct spending by \$4 million in 2004, and by \$8 million in each year thereafter for the salaries and benefits of the judges that would be authorized by the act. Enacting S. 878 would not affect revenues.

S. 878 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The estimated budgetary impact of S. 878 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 750 (administration of justice).

By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars										
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
CHANGES IN DIRECT SPENDING										
Pay and Benefits for Additional District and Bankruptcy Judges										
Estimated Budget Authority	4	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
Estimated Outlays	4	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION										
Court of Appeals, District Courts, and Other Judicial Services										
Estimated Authorization Level	54	19	19	20	20	20	21	21	21	22
Estimated Outlays	26	35	31	20	20	20	21	21	21	22

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

CBO estimates that enacting S. 878 would increase direct spending by \$76 million over the next 10 years for salaries and benefits of the additional district and bankruptcy judges that would be authorized by the legislation. In addition, we estimate that implementing the act would cost \$236 million over the next 10 years for court staff salaries and benefits, supplies, equipment, security, and rental or construction of office space to support the 50 additional judges, subject to appropriation of the necessary amounts. For this estimate, CBO assumes that all judges authorized under the bill would be approved by the beginning of fiscal year 2005.

Direct Spending

S. 878 would authorize 14 additional district court judges and 36 additional bankruptcy judges. Because the salaries and benefits of such judges are considered mandatory, adding more judges would increase direct spending. Under current law, district judges receive \$154,700 annually and bankruptcy judges receive \$142,324 annually. CBO estimates that enacting the legislation would increase direct spending by \$4 million in 2004, and by \$8 million each year thereafter for the salaries and benefits of the additional 50 judges authorized under the act. Adjustments in annual salary for judges is subject to future Congressional action.

Spending Subject to Appropriation

CBO expects that each additional judge authorized by this legislation would require the same amount of staff support, security, equipment, supplies, and office space as current district and bankruptcy judges consume. Based on information from the AOUSC, the courts would need to hire an average of five support staff for district judges and three support staff for bankruptcy judges. We expect that the courts would need to construct expanded court facilities and rent larger office space to accommodate the additional judges and staff authorized by the act. In addition, the courts would be required to conduct background checks, purchase lawbook subscriptions and furniture, and expand telephone systems. CBO estimates that implementing the legislation would cost \$26 million in 2004, \$132 million over the 2004-2008 period, and \$236 million over the 2004-2013 period, subject to appropriation of the necessary amounts.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

S. 878 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no cost on state, local, or tribal governments.

ESTIMATE PREPARED BY:

Federal Costs: Lanette J. Walker

Impact on State, Local, and Tribal Governments: Theresa Gullo

Impact on the Private Sector: Page Piper/Bach

ESTIMATE APPROVED BY:

Peter H. Fontaine

Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis